

UJUNG KULON PARK SHELTERS WORLD'S LAST 17 JAVAN RHINOS

Continued from "What We Are Doing for Rhinos and Tigers" (July 1994)

Ujung Kulon covers 300 square miles on the western tip of Java. A World Heritage Site, this isolated park is home to the rare Javan rhino and hundreds of other rare plants and animals. Beyond the risks of natural disaster, genetic problems and disease that all small, isolated populations face, the threat of poaching looms large at Ujung Kulon. The Javan rhino is very elusive; researchers have spent years in the field with only a few brief glimpses of them. No one has exhibited these rare animals. The Javan rhino has become the official symbol for the park.

Ujung Kulon is deeply involved with the annual "Bowling for Rhinos" fundraisers held throughout the U.S.A.

ON THE ROAD AGAIN

Sometime this fall, Michael Werikhe again took to the road in the cause of the rhino - this time under the umbrella of Save the Rhino Intl. The 300 km route started

in Mombasa (0 ft) to the top of Kilimanjaro (19,340 ft) in the company of a giant rhino (costume). All funds raised by participants sponsorship went to local community projects. If you wish to make a donation, write to: Balkoon Safaris, Wilson Airport, PO Box 43747, Nairobi, Kenya

Bravo to Frank

Trapp! In a past issue I suggested people write to the various embassies of countries which are not overly rhino-conservation conscious. Frank wrote to them all and he got two letters back. I am printing the complete, terse response from the Republic of Yemen and excerpts from the Republic of China.

"I truly appreciate your concern over the issue of the rhino importing. My government has passed a decree recently banning importing or trading with the Rhino, and concerned authorities are enforcing this ban. Thank you once again for your concern over this issue. (signed) Mohsin Alaini, Ambassador (July 6, 1994). Embassy of the Republic of Yemen.

"Our office received your letter addressed to Representative Moushui Ding regarding the trade in endangered species, especially rhinoceros and tigers, in the Republic of China on Taiwan. The ROC Government shares your concern. Unfortunately, the reports of

some wildlife protection groups do not reflect the actual situation in the ROC. Because we are not permitted to be a member of CITES, however, we have been unable to argue our case before many international environmental forums. We completely banned the import of all tiger and rhinos and their parts in 1985. We have intensified our crackdown on violators of wildlife protection laws. We have dramatically increased arrests and convictions for illegal wildlife practices. Please be assured that the ROC Government will continue to do all it can to protect endangered species of wildlife. (signed) Jack Lee, Senior Information Officer (September, 1994). Information Division, Coordination Council for North American Affairs Office in U.S.A.

P.S. If you would like a copy of "What We Are Doing for Rhinos and Tigers: The Republic of China's Tireless Efforts to Halt the Trade in Endangered Species", send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Really, Rhinos!, PO Box 1285, Tucson, AZ 85702-1285.



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